of punitive action against police officials found negligent in the investigation of cases.

(c) and (d) The requisite details are as under:

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints substantiated	Number of Policemen against whom action taken
1999	451	21	35
2000	489	27	50
2001 (upto 30.6.2001)	167	02	02

In addition, 2 cases of custodial deaths were reported in the year 1999, 1 in the year 2000 and 2 in the year 2001 (upto 30.6.2001). In all, 13 police personnel were placed under suspension for their suspected involvement in these cases.

Gas Leakage and underground fire in BCCL Mines at Dhanbad

*158. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of BCCL at Dhanbad have issued notices to several families in villages to vacate their houses in view of danger of life and property following gas leakage and underground fire.;

(b) if so, whether the underground fire at coal mines in Dhanbad has been spreading to several villages;

(c) whether the various technologies being adopted by Government to check such underground fires have proved to be ineffective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The management of BCCL has issued notices to the families from time to time residing in the endangered localities already affected/likely to be affected by underground fire and gas leakage, about the imminent threat to their lives and property and need to vacate these areas. In this regard the district authorities have also been kept apprised.

(b) In spite of the best efforts of BCCL, the fires could not be controlled fully due to enormity of the problem.

(c) and (d) The various techniques adopted by BCCL to extinguish/control fire are blanketing, surface sealing, sand flushing, inert gas injection, trenching, water pooling etc. The spreading of fire has been retarded but not to the desired extent.

Scarcity of potable water in the country

†*159. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale scarcity of potable water is being felt in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take effective steps to make adequate arrangement of potable water;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the people of Gujarat will also be benefitted from it; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) At present, no such large scale scarcity of potable water has been reported by the State Governments. However, reports have been received from Karnataka and Maharashtra about deficient rainfall during the current monsoon and consequent scarcity of drinking water in some parts of these States.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.